

## MINISTERING TO CHRIST — Matt. 25 : 31-46

Topic for August 26

(Consecration Meeting)

Who has not wished that he might have been among the favored few who were permitted to walk and talk with Jesus while upon earth. How gladly we would turn from work to sit at his feet as Mary did! How eagerly we would sell all and give to the poor if by so doing we might be permitted to follow with him and be provided for by him! How quickly we would start for the end of the earth if there we were sure of finding him as he was!

How many thousands have made pilgrimages to see the very land wherein he lived and kiss the stones whereon he walked. Others have paid fabulous sums to obtain bits of the cross which held him up in death. Still others spend night and day looking for his personal appearance again. But is all this what Jesus would have us do? The disciples evinced their selfishness in quarreling for the chief place in the kingdom. Is there not a like tinge of selfishness in the desire to be personally with Christ forgetful of those we would leave behind, who perish for just such help as we can give? Jesus came to seek individuals it is true, but he also sought to save society. The kingdom is a social organization and its leaven is to leaven the whole lump of the world. The ideal then, of Christian living is not the rapture of the Mount of Transfiguration alone; it includes the healing of the sick, the blessing of the children, and the ministering to the needy multitude waiting at the foot of the mountain. The stay in the mountain is simply to gain strength for the work on the plain. The songs and the sermons of the church are simply to give strength for the duties of the week as we go in and out among men. Christ ascended from the sight of men to live in the hearts of his people and only among people may we minister unto him. He who seeks to find the transfigured Christ directly will fail, but he who lovingly does as Jesus did down among men will find him transfigured before him. Heaven lies in the straight path of loving service. Jesus taught no lesson more beautiful or needful.

## SCRIPTURE LIGHT

Whom we may help and how, in ministering to Christ.

- 1 The poor, Gal. 2 : 10; I John 3 : 17-19.
- 2 The sick, James 5 : 16.
- 3 The sinful, I John 5 : 16; Gal. 6 : 1.
- 4 The heathen, Matt. 28 : 19; Rom. 1 : 14, 15.
- 5 The wronged, Luke 10 : 36, 37.
- 6 Strangers, Heb. 13 : 2.
- 7 Children, Matt. 18 : 5, 6; Eph. 6 : 4.
- 8 Enemies, Rom. 12 : 20.

Name other classes and other ways for the work of ministering.

## THE JOY OF MINISTERING

- 9 Joy in service, Luke 10 : 17.
  - 10 Joy in converts, Phil. 4 : 1; I Thess. 2 : 20; III John 4.
  - 11 Joy in fellowship, I Pet. 4 : 12-15.
  - 12 Joy in the Master's approval, Matt. 25 : 34.
- What other joys are there in loving service?

## TOPICS FOR SHORT TALKS OR PAPERS

- 1 The example of Jesus in ministering to others. (See Luke 19 : 5-7; Matt. 14 : 19; Luke 22 : 50, 51; Matt. 26 : 10; John 19 : 26; John 8 : 7, 11, etc.)
- 2 What we are to do for one another. (See Jas. 5 : 16; Heb. 3 : 13; I Pet. 1 : 22; Gal. 6 : 2; I Thess. 4 : 18; Col. 3 : 16; Gal. 5 : 13; Eph. 5 : 21; Rom. 15 : 7, etc.)

(These references are to be used only in preparation.)

## QUESTIONS

- 1 Does Christ want us to minister unto him? Matt. 20 : 28.
- 2 How can we minister unto Christ?
- 3 Can all minister unto Christ in some way?
- 4 What can children do that will be ministering unto Christ?
- 5 How can we come to have joy in serving others rather than in being served by others?

6 Can any one enter the kingdom of heaven who does not love to help others?

7 If we have been seeking selfish pleasures all our lives how can we atone for it?

8 How can we minister to Christ with our money?

9 How can those who can sing minister to Christ with their voices? Does this apply to other talents?

10 How can our society do more for the needy?

11 What especial obligations are upon those with education or special opportunities for doing good?

C. F. YODER.

## USEFULNESS

GEORGE C. CARPENTER

Charles Kingsley said, "We become like God only as we become of use." We are of use to the extent that we are helpful to our fellowmen. We are helpful to the degree that we love. Love and labor go together. Deeds of kindness and helpfulness if not done with the hand of love weigh lightly. It is thru love that the little child says to mother, "Let me help you." It is thru love that every child of God should say to a needy humanity, "Let me help you, give me your hand that I may lift you higher into a sphere of greater happiness and usefulness."

It was our pleasure last week to listen to a lecture on "How to Solve the Racial Problem of the South" by one of the world's greatest teachers and orators, Booker T. Washington. He would solve the race problem by making the colored man more useful, doing so largely by industrial education, of which he is a strong advocate. He has labored unceasingly to impress upon the minds of the colored people the necessity of proving themselves capable of doing something for their own benefit and advancement, and for their welfare and happiness. He has also proven in a large degree that his solution is a practical one. Starting several years ago with a few students and a few dollars, the school is now attended by nearly 1400 students, and the property is valued at about eight millions of dollars. Lately, one of their large fine buildings has been built entirely by students—from laying the foundation to putting in the electric fixtures. Wherever the colored man has become useful, there we find him honored and treated as a brother by the white man. An Anglo-Saxon who is useless is in almost as sad a predicament as the black man in that condition.

The black man is more emotional shouting his religion, but the white man thinks more. "Old Black Joe" formerly went about with pail and brush, "whitewashing," now the white man comes as a "house decorator." Formerly, "Old Black Joe" was our barber, but now the white man is our "tonorial artist." The black man has lost his usefulness. May the race problem soon become one of the past, which it will do as soon as the colored people of the South rise higher in the scale of civilization and make themselves an indispensable cog in the wheels of American progress.

And may we all, young and old, rich and poor, white and black, become more useful in God's service.

## The Christian Life

## The Master's Face

No pictured likeness of my Lord have I;  
He carved no record of His ministry  
On wood or stone;  
He left no sculptured tomb nor parchment dim,  
But trusted, for all memory of Him,  
Men's hearts alone.

Sometimes I long to see Him as of old  
Judea saw, and in my gaze to hold  
His face enshrined;

Often, among the world's tumultuous strife,  
Some slight memorial of His early life  
I long to find.

Who sees the face sees but in part; who reads  
The spirit it hides sees all; he needs

No more. Thy grace—  
Thy life in my life, Lord, give Thou to me;  
And then, in truth, I may forever see  
My Master's face!

—William Hurd Hillier.

## Take Time

New York Observer.

This is a hurrying age, as we often remind ourselves, and many tasks which we would like to accomplish must perforce remain unattended to. But for some things there is always time. Duty can always be done; kindness can always be shown; wayside ministries need not be neglected; private devotions are always possible. There is never an excuse for the haste that makes waste; there is always room, in the case of the man who with divine help plans his life, for a certain amount of self-culture and social ministry.

## God is Love

Lyman Abbott.

Are you questioning what course in life you shall take? Let love tell you. Love is the only prophet, love is the only teacher. Love will answer all problems, because God is love and love is God. We are in this world like a child who plays upon the floor with a disintegrated map; which she does not know how to put together. Here is some father-love, and here some mother-love, and here some brother-love, and here some wife-love, here some love that is wrathful against wrong, and here some love that is merciful and compassionate toward the sinner—love all broken up in fragments. Put them together; take your life for this task, and put them together; and when all the fragments of life are put together you will find the map is love, for life is God, and God is love.

## The Gentleness of the Strong

Northern Christian Advocate.

Gentleness is never more affecting than in the strong, brave man. Hector doffing his helmet to kiss his child has touched and charmed the human heart for thousands of years. John Brown speaking kindly to a poor slave woman on this way to the scaffold manifested a hero's irresistible gentleness. The absolutely perfect combination of strength and gentleness is to be found only in Christ. In the fifth chapter of Revelation we read; "Behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, . . . and I beheld . . . a lamb as it had been slain." The Greek word for "lamb"